



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/555,275	08/30/2001	John David Bentley	50179-081	9040
7590 11/04/2003				
McDermott Will & Emery 600 13th Street NW Washington, DC 20005-3096			EXAMINER ALLEN, MARIANNE P	
			ART UNIT 1631	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Applicati n N .

09/555,275

Applicant(s)

BENTLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Marianne P. Allen

Art Unit

1631

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,21,23,24,26,30-32 and 34-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,21,23,24,26,30-32 and 34-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Applicant's arguments filed 8/6/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Claims 2-20, 22, 25, 27-29, and 33 have been cancelled. Claims 34-49 have been newly added. Claims 1, 21, 23-24, 26, 30-32, and 34-49 are under consideration by the examiner.

#### ***Drawings***

The drawings submitted 8/6/03 are noted. However, applicant did not include nor address Figures 3-8, 10, and 11. This is an incomplete set of drawings. Furthermore, applicant's renumbering of the subparts do not correspond with the numbering within the specification.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

Claims 1 and 34-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

To the degree that the method of claims 1 and 47 are directed to a completely *in silico* method where the obtaining and testing steps are computational in nature rather than laboratory chemistry (see claim 30-32 and 34 for example), the claims are considered to be non-statutory as they merely manipulate data. The results of the method as written do not provide a concrete, tangible, and useful result as all compounds are assessed, obtained (represented by a data structure), and tested. (See for example Wang et al. reference submitted by applicant as Exhibit E.) All compounds possess some level of stereochemical complementarity (see claim 1).

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 1, 21, 23-24, 26, 30-32, and 34-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains

Art Unit: 1631

subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This is a new matter rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “modulates binding of a natural ligand” and to require testing the compound for its ability to modulate said binding. While page 7 discloses preventing the binding of the natural ligand, the specification does not appear to contemplate or disclose the broader concept of modulating binding of natural ligands.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “modulates signal transduction via IR, IGF-1R or IRR” and to require testing the compound for its ability to modulate said signal transduction. No basis has been pointed to and none is apparent for this concept within the claimed method of identifying a compound.

Basis for new claim 34 was not seen on any of the pages pointed to by applicant. Clarification is requested.

Should this new matter rejection be overcome, the claims would be subject to at least the following enablement rejection.

The specification does not exemplify modeling of any compound and a molecule as defined by claim 1(A)(i)-(iii). The specification does not disclose any compounds meeting the structural and functional limitations required by the claims. As written, the claim 1 recites the step of assessing the stereochemical complementarity between a compound and a recited molecule, obtaining the compound, and testing the compound. Note that the claims do not recite any scoring function or cut-off value to discriminate high-ranking compounds from low-ranking compounds. That is, the claims can be considered to be effectively no different from obtaining

and testing all potential compounds as all assessed compounds will be obtained and tested. Note that claim 1(B) requires obtaining “a” compound and not “the” compound of (A). Likewise, claim 47 does not discriminate between compounds to be assessed and obtained. That is, all compounds assessed are obtained. Applicant’s arguments indicate that all compounds will give a computational result for stereochemical complementarity even if it is poor.

Furthermore, the specification does not clearly specify what is required to be performed in assessing “stereochemical complementarity.” There does not appear to be a specific definition as to how applicant defines “stereochemical complementarity.” Page 6 discusses this in the context of a lock and key visualization with the cavity in the receptor site. Page 13 discusses this in the context of matching intra-site surface coordinates lining the groove of the particular receptor site. Page 14 discusses this in the context of optimizing, geometrically or chemically, the “fit.” The claims don’t make clear which, if any, of these discussions of “stereochemical complementarity” are intended to be embraced by the claims. There are no limitations to cavities, binding sites, or energy optimization, for example. As such, one of ordinary skill in the art practicing the invention would not know what positive, active steps must be performed to meet these limitations. Applicant argues that there would have been programs known at the time of the invention for determining binding pockets. However, the claims do not require finding a binding pocket, using a known binding pocket, or using a docking program. The claims do not appear to be limited to these concepts.

Finally, claims 21, 23-24, and 26 are directed to a computer-assisted method for identifying potential compounds. The specification provides no guidance on what a criteria data set must include or how it is generated. The specification provides no guidance on how to

compare this data set to a computer database. The specification provides no guidelines or criteria by which selection must be made. The specification does not identify any database known to those of ordinary skill in the art that could be used in the method as claimed.

Claims 1, 21, 23-24, 26, 30-32, and 34-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “natural ligand.” It is not known what the metes and bounds of this phrase are. It is not known what are considered to be natural ligands of IR, IGF-1R, or IRR as set forth in the claim. For example, are these ligands limited to those that bind *in vivo* in a natural biological setting or do they include any ligand that binds *in vitro*? Does this phrase exclude synthesized organic compounds?

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “signal transduction via IR, IGF-1R, or IRR.” It is not known what the metes and bounds of this phrase are. For example, the claim could be construed as intending the signal transduction of the named receptors themselves or altering signal transduction of other receptors in a cascade including these receptors (either upstream or downstream of the named receptors). With respect to claims 44-46, it is not known what the increase, decrease, or inhibition in signal transduction is in comparison to or when this step occurs within the method of claim 1.

The claims continue to recite “substantially as shown” and “form an equivalent three-dimensional structure.” These phrases are indefinite as set forth in the prior Office action.

MPEP 2173.05(a) states that the meaning of every term used in a claim should be apparent from the prior art or from the specification at the time the application is filed. Neither the specification nor prior art of record specifically define these phrases. Applicant points to MPEP 2173.05(b) and points to *Andrew Corp. v. Gabriel Electronics*, 847 F.2d 819, 6 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1988) in support of their assertion that these phrases are definite. This is not agreed with. MPEP 2173.05(b) states that acceptability of the claim language depends on whether one of ordinary skill in the art would understand what is claimed, in light of the specification. When a term of degree is presented in a claim, first a determination is to be made as to whether the specification provides some standard for measuring that degree. If it does not, a determination is made as to whether one of ordinary skill in the art, in view of the prior art and the status of the art, would be nevertheless reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. However, the instant specification does not provide any standard for measuring what is “substantially as shown” or “an equivalent three-dimensional structure” and neither does the prior art. Applicant has provided no evidence that one of ordinary skill in the art would be apprised of the scope of “substantially as shown” and “form an equivalent three-dimensional structure.” There does not appear to be an art understood definition of these phrases.

Claim 21 recites “which are structurally similar to a portion.” It is unknown what degree of similarity is required to meet this limitation. It is unknown how much of the criteria data set constitutes “a portion.” Applicant’s arguments are unpersuasive. They have provided no basis in the specification which leads to the interpretation they have presented. There does not appear to be an art understood definition of these phrases.

Claims 23-24 are confusing in referring to step (e) as a selection step. Step (e) is an output step.

Claims 35 and 37-38 lack antecedent basis in claim 1 for “or more subsets.” Claim 1 appears to be directed to a single subset. Clarification is requested.

Claims 39-40 are confusing in adding the step of modifying the compound. The claim does not make clear if this is performed before or after obtaining in step (B) or before or after testing in step (C). Is the compound modified as part of the modeling steps, that is choose a compound and modify the structure of the compound within the unspecified positive active steps for assessing stereochemical complementarity in (A) to meet the criteria set forth in claims 39-40? In addition, Figure 2 does not clearly show the amino acid residues intended to meet the limitation of “at the surface of the molecule.” It is not known whether some particular amino acid region was intended to be a limitation of this claim.

Claim 47 is unclear as to whether the  $K_d$  or  $K_i$  is a predicted, calculated, or experimentally determined value.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

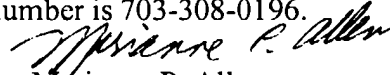
Art Unit: 1631

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marianne P. Allen whose telephone number is 703-308-0666. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 5:30 am - 1:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward can be reached on 703-308-4028. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

  
Marianne P. Allen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1631

mpa